

# •The Lamoine Quarterly•

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## Broadband to Expand to Unserved Areas *Partnership Funds Nearly 9-Miles of New Cable Line*

(Lamoine) - For most of the residents of Lamoine, access to high speed Internet service is nearly as commonplace as electricity, telephone and water. Since the late 1980s much of the town has received cable TV service thanks to the large copper lines that run by the most populated parts of town. But for dozens of homes, the CTV lines don't lead to their roads—because there are not enough homes in their neighborhood to require the cable company to provide service. A density requirement in the CTV Franchise Agreement between the town and cable providers only required running service when at least 15-homes per mile were present. That's common in virtually all towns served by cable and it's a problem for those who need access for things like education, business and health care.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic voters approved a \$5,000 budget item to start work on planning to expand the existing cable line services to the many subdivision areas that are not presently served. Consultants identified those unserved sections of town, and at one point the town applied for a ConnectME grant to try to wire up the Eagle Point area which is shared with the Town of Hancock. The cost per home was very high, and the state agency charged with bringing high speed service turned down the application as limited funds were available. Then the pandemic struck, and from a project



### **A BIG big check**

*(L-R) Newly elected Select Board member Larissa Thomas, County Commissioners Paul Paradis, William Clark & John Wombacher and Lamoine Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon as Hancock County awarded \$110,000 to the town to help with a broadband expansion project.  
(Photo by County Clerk Rebekah Knowlton)*

funding standpoint, that turned out to be a bit of a blessing. The federal government passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which provided nearly \$180,000 to the town for projects limited to broadband expansion, water and sewer projects, premium pay for front line workers and revenue loss recovery. Several million dollars in ARPA funds have also come to Hancock County, and the County Commissioners reached out to communities to offer assistance with those same categories.

While the pandemic was raging, work was still progressing on how to wire up the rest of the town. Charter Communications (Spectrum) came up with a cost estimate to obtain permits and

run wire to numerous areas not presently served. The Selectboard committed \$110,000 toward the project, and the County Commissioners agreed to match that amount, which provided the town's share of the project. Charter has committed \$187,055.24, for the \$407,055.24 project. Work is under way to obtain the necessary pole permissions from other utilities to run the cable lines. Charter government liaison Shelley Winchenbach, who played a key role in developing the project, estimates it will take about a year before all the wires are in place and homes will have access to CTV service and broadband.

The areas to be wired include:

- ♦ Eagle Point (31 homes)
- ♦ Partridge Cove (8 homes)
- ♦ Seal Point Road (35 homes)
- ♦ Great Ledge Road (8 homes)
- ♦ McFarland Drive (1 home)
- ♦ Wolf Run Subdivision (16 homes)
- ♦ Bear Point Way (3 homes)
- ♦ Marilyn Lane (2 homes)
- ♦ Bittersweet Lane (4 homes)
- ♦ Tilden Way (3 homes)

While the Charter home estimate is 72, there may be about 125 homes that will actually have access to service. The project will string nearly 9-miles of new cable.

The Select Board thanks the Technology Committee, Consultant Brian Lippold of Casco Bay Advisors, The Island Institute, the County Commissioners and County Administrator Scott Adkins, and Charter's Shelley Winchenbach as well as Hancock County's consultant Mission Broadband for all their work in bring the project to fruition. The Technology Committee noted that expansion may lead to new economic activity in town as well.

## Small Turnout Elects New Officials

(Lamoine) - Despite a contested School Committee race, fewer than 11-percent of Lamoine's registered voters cast ballots on March 8, 2022 in the annual municipal election. The two incumbents on the School Committee, Brett Jones and Robert Pulver, won re-election to the board and will serve another 3-years. Jones collected 138 votes and Pulver 117. Challengers Michelle Rollins had 48 votes and Katie Dandurand had support from 32 voters. Both were making their first try at elected office in town.

Lamoine has a new Select Board member, Larissa Thomas. She replaces Robert Christie who finished up his 2nd term on the board and opted not to seek a 3rd term. Incumbent Kathleen Rybarz was also re-elected. Rybarz captured 136 votes and Thomas 145 votes.

Jane Fowler was also re-elected to the Board of Assessors with 155 votes as she ran unopposed for the seat.

Only 174 of the 1,609 registered voters cast ballots this year. Of those, 13 voted by absentee ballot. There were no referendum questions on the ballot for 2022.

## Joe Reynolds is Citizen of the Year

(Lamoine) - A true Lamoine native is the 2021 Lamoine Citizen of the Year. Long time firefighter Joe Reynolds received a standing ovation at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting as the Select Board presented him with the plaque and proclamation honoring his service.

Reynolds retired a week earlier as the Assistant Fire Chief of Lamoine (see page 5) after serving in that post for 44-years. Prior to that he'd been the fire chief for 3-years, opting to step back in the 1970s because his time was limited. Since then his life-long friend George "Skip" Smith has been the chief. They both joined the fire department when they were 14 years old.

In addition to his service on the fire department, Reynolds served for several years on the Board of Appeals. And he is a history buff, and has been a tremendous help with the Lamoine Historical Society



*Joe Reynolds received the Lamoine Citizen of the Year award at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.*

*(Jennifer Sargent Photo)*

(his sister Susan Hodgkins is the president).

The award was a surprise to Reynolds. The Select Board enlisted his daughter, Jennifer Sargent, to make sure he would attend the town meeting. Joe said he'd taken a nap on the couch before the meeting and Jen called to remind him to show up, and he did, arriving just at the right time.



# Town Seeks Climate Resilience Grant

## Heat Pumps Sought for Town Buildings

By Larissa Thomas

(Lamoine) - The Town of Lamoine was recently enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership, a state program instituted by Governor Mills as part of her Maine Won't Wait Climate Action Plan. Enrollment makes the town eligible to apply for grant funding to support actions targeting climate resilience and/or the transition to a low carbon future. The program's Community Action Grants are administered by the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, and provide support up to \$50,000 (with no local match required) for improvements connected to climate change.

Enrollment was pursued under the leadership of the Lamoine Conservation Commission, with support from the town's administrative assistant. The enrollment process entailed preparation of a self assessment, adoption of a resolution, and hosting of a public workshop, which was held on February 15, 2022. The public workshop was designed to solicit input on priorities and to gauge support for possible options

to be pursued under the grant. The Conservation Commission conferred with the town's administrative assistant and School Board Chair, Brett Jones to formulate a possible grant project concept that could serve as a jumping off point for the workshop discussion. The event was moderated by Conservation Commission Chair, Larissa Thomas, who was joined by Brett Jones, on hand to speak to the school's needs, facility constraints, and future plans. A productive and wide-ranging discussion took place, and the Conservation Commission is grateful to the engaged, informed, and enthusiastic Lamoiners who participated in the workshop.

Now that enrollment has been achieved, the Conservation Commission will begin work on a grant application under the program, pursuing funding to install electric heat pumps in town buildings and to enter into a power purchase agreement for solar panels to be installed on a town rooftop (likely the salt/sand shed) to provide for the town's electricity needs. Watch this space for updates as the grant process proceeds.

# Appeals Board

## Alternates Sought

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Board of Appeals has a pair of openings for members to serve in an alternate position. An alternate would sit on cases in the event that a full board member is unable to hear the matter due to a conflict of interest or is unable to attend meetings.

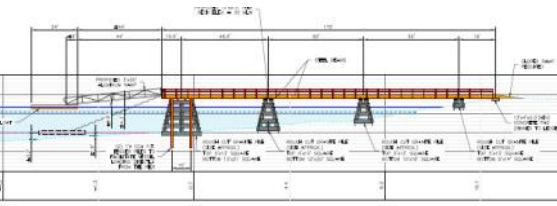
Appeals Board Member Larissa Thomas has resigned upon her election to the Select Board. By law, a Select Board member cannot serve on the Appeals Board. Current Appeals Board Alternate Brett Jones has indicated he would like to be named a full member. That leaves two alternate positions open.

Anyone interested in serving as an alternate is urged to contact a Select Board member or the town office to indicate their willingness to serve. Appointments will be made as soon as possible.

# Planning Board

## Approves Pier

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board gave approval to a pier proposed by Glenn Crawford at his Gilpatrick Lane property. The pier is a private facility to be used by Crawford's family for lobster fishing and recreational boating. A commercial pier would have required a zone change. The Planning Board determined in March that it had jurisdiction to grant the permit and that no public hearing was required.



The pier proposed for the Crawford property at the end of Gilpatrick Lane

# Jeff Cosulich Named

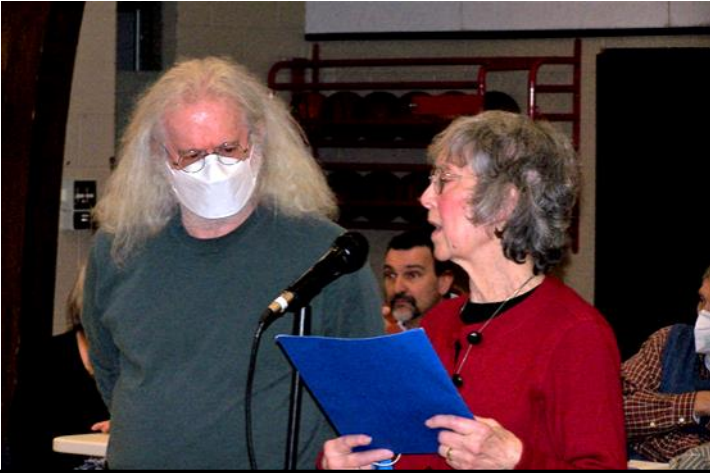
## Conservation Award Winner

(Lamoine) - Retired Conservation Commission member Jeff Cosulich received the 2022 Conservation Award at the annual town meeting this year. Mr. Cosulich began serving on the commission in 2015, stepping down five years later. In presenting the award, Conservation Commission member Linda Penkalski said that Cosulich pitched in with about every activity that the Commission participated in. He led a shoreline cleanup crew every year and brought pretzels to every guest speaker event, providing assistance with setup and cleanup.

After stepping down from the commission in 2020, Cosulich has continued to be active in the Simon Trail Tree Identification Walk and the GETWET water testing program. Mrs. Penkalski said the water testing program participation has touched many lives, and may have inspired future scientists or instilled an appreciation for the natural world, and Lamoine's place in it.

Cosulich also serves on the Lamoine Parks Commission and on the Technology Committee. His service on the Parks Commission has been as a liaison with the Conservation Commission and was especially helpful in the plan to revegetate Marlboro Beach.

The award said that Cosulich brought a positive, "can-do" spirit to all of his endeavors and the town and the environment has benefitted. He's a model citizen who is engaged and willing to give his time, talent and energy to help make Lamoine a better community.



Conservation Award winner Jeff Cosulich receives the 2021 award from Linda Penkalski at the annual town meeting in March.

# Town May Decide if

## Fire Dept. can Bill Insurance for Calls

(Lamoine) - Town officials are working on an ordinance that would allow the fire department to recover some of the costs of responding to some emergencies. Most communities in Maine seek some sort of reimbursement from insurance companies for covered calls. A collection company that specializes in handling the billing approached the town about seeking such reimbursement.

Voters would get the final say on an ordinance and the Select Board hopes to have one ready to present to the special town meeting when the school budget is presented. The ordinance would allow for billing only insurance companies for covered losses for things like motor vehicle fires and accidents and house fires. Insurers routinely reimburse fire departments for their responses. Individuals would not be billed for non-insured losses.

If the ordinance passes, the fire department would collect insurance information at the scene of calls and submit that to the collection company. The agency that collects and reimburses the fire department would retain 20-percent of the recovered costs.

# Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - The first quarter of any given year is typically slow in the construction permit issuance department. The Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Board issued the following permits:

| # | Name            | Project             |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Frye, Paul      | Shed                |
| 2 | Johnson, Ryan   | 911 Address         |
| 3 | Day, Bronwen    | Accessory Unit      |
| 4 | Wilkey, David   | Garage/Addition     |
| 5 | Wallace, Cheri  | Residence, Garage   |
| 6 | Spruce, Tom     | Garage              |
| 7 | Crawford, Glenn | Pier                |
| 8 | Cahn, Frederick | Shore Stabilization |

Additionally, six plumbing permits were issued. Three were for internal plumbing, two for septic system replacements, and one for a replacement distribution box on a septic system.

Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright is in the office on Monday and Thursday mornings.



## Town Asks to Intervene in Salmon Farm

(Lamoine) - Voters at the March 2022 town meeting overwhelmingly approved a request that the town seek intervenor status in the permitting process for a proposed salmon aquaculture project in Frenchman Bay. American Aquafarms, which is based in Norway, is seeking leases on two 60-acre tracts off Gouldsboro to raise Atlantic Salmon.

Lobster fishermen who are based in Lamoine have raised two major concerns about the proposal; the loss of fishing area and introduction of pollutants into the waters. Several lobster fishermen haul traps from the proposed lease areas. Duncan Haass of Lamoine told a Select Board meeting following the annual town meeting that he predicts that once Frenchman Bay is polluted the company “will bail, and the bay will be dead”. Haass and fellow fishermen presented a petition to Select Board Member Kathleen Rybarz requesting the intervenor status, and many residents attended a board meeting to urge that the matter be placed on the town

meeting warrant.

Attorney Sally Mills who represents a citizens’ group called Friends of Frenchman Bay attended the town meeting and fielded a few questions regarding the process of becoming an intervenor. Mills said municipalities are automatically granted intervenor status but was unsure what the legal fees might be. She said that being an intervenor would give the town a seat at the table during the permitting process.

Just what comes next for the town is unknown. The Select Board will have the matter on its agendas for the coming months and it’s quite likely that an attorney will be retained to guide the town through the process. The Department of Marine Resources will be among the permitting agencies, and it has yet to receive a complete application from American Aquafarms. Rybarz predicted it would be the end of 2022 at the earliest before any public hearings would be held on the matter.

## Voters Swiftly Pass Town Meeting Articles

(Lamoine) - It took less than an hour for Moderator Joe Marshall to navigate through the 23 articles before voters on the open town meeting floor on March 16, 2022. Only an article to request intervenor status (see separate story on this page) and inclusion of a new fund that was inadvertently left out of the fund list took any significant time to decide. And when the articles ran out, it was only 57-minutes of elapsed time to pass the town budget and the annual housekeeping articles on the warrant.

The voters approved a municipal budget of \$1,076,596.24. The only amendment to the budget proposed by the Budget Committee and Select Board was a \$4,000 increase to the Land Conservation Fund for a total of \$5,000. Resident Carol Korty requested the funding increase, noting the cost to purchase land to conserve is very high.

A proposed amendment to close out the Lamoine 150! Fund and move those funds to the Land Conservation Fund failed. That fund is still active through the end of Fiscal Year 2022 on June 30, 2022.

The municipal budget does not include the school budget. A separate town meeting will determine that budget. That town meeting is usually scheduled in the month of May. There is no immediate word on when that town meeting will be held.



*Voters hold up their cards as an indication of a vote in favor of one of the 25 articles that came before the annual town meeting in March 2022*

## Aquaculture Moratorium Proposed

(Lamoine) - A citizens’ group concerned about the increasing number of aquaculture lease proposals before Maine’s Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has asked the Select Board to consider placing a moratorium on large scale projects before voters. Crystal Canney of the Protect Maine’s Fishing Heritage Foundation met with the board on March 17th. Canney noted that the number of proposed leases and the acreage of those leases has grown exponentially in the past few years.

The DMR is responsible for permitting and approving the leases, along with several other agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers. Municipality jurisdiction generally ends at the high water mark under the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Canney said a moratorium could apply to specific projects over a given size if the town so chooses. The goal of the moratorium would be to amend the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to deal with those portions of aquaculture projects that impact the area under town jurisdiction.

Currently Lamoine has only three small areas zoned in the Shoreland Commercial Fisheries and Maritime Activities District; the areas in front of Lamoine Beach, Lamoine State Park and at the end of Seal Point where Lobster 207 operates. The Select Board said it would study the proposal.

## Select Board Majority Breaks Glass Ceiling



*Jo Cooper*

*Kathleen Rybarz*

*Larissa Thomas*

(Lamoine) - Following the March 8, 2022 election, three of the five members of the Lamoine Select Board are women—the first time in town history men have not been in the majority. At the organizational meeting on March 17th, fellow board members chose Jo Cooper as the chair. Cooper is entering her 27th year as a municipal officer. Lamoine elected its first female Selectman (the title at the time) in 1988 in Carol Oliver. Evelyn Farrell served for a term on the board in the early 1990s, then it wasn’t until Cooper’s election in 2000 that a female presence was back. Kathleen Rybarz, who was re-elected to a 3rd term this spring began her service in 2016. State lawmakers approved a change in name from “Board of Selectmen” to “Select Board” just last fall.

## Primary Election is June 14th

(Lamoine) - All registered voters can cast a ballot on June 14th in Lamoine, as the State Senate District 7 seat is up for election to replace Louis Luchini who resigned several weeks ago. The special election will coincide with the party primary elections in which only voters enrolled in one of the political parties can cast ballots.

The polls in Lamoine will be open from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM at the Lamoine Town Hall. Absentee ballots will be available 30 days prior.

## No Major Work for State Highways

(Lamoine) - Maine’s Department of Transportation has released its 3-year work plan for all state roads. Neither Routes 184 or 204 have any major projects proposed under the plan, though some non-specified ditching and culvert maintenance is on the work schedule. The work plan budgets \$185,000 over the three year period for ditching and culvert work.

The two state roads were last paved in 2020 and have experienced significant cracking in the past two years.

## Three Properties Tax Acquired

*Two Sold Back to Previous Owners*

(Lamoine) - Under state law, when the town files a tax lien, the owner has 18-months in which to pay the lien amount in full, or the municipality automatically forecloses on the property. Lamoine's Town Meeting gives the Select Board the authority to dispose of tax acquired property by first offering it back to the previous owner for all back taxes, fees, interest and other costs. If the previous owner declines, the town may opt to put the property out for a public bid.

In February, the town automatically acquired two Buttermilk Road properties and one on Mill Road. All three have occupied homes on them. All of the homeowners received notices of impending automatic foreclosure. A tax lien had been filed in 2020 for the 2019/20 property taxes.

Two of the previous owners paid all three years of back taxes, fees and interest and the Select Board issued quitclaim deeds to them, leaving just one occupied property on Buttermilk Road in town ownership. The previous owner had contacted the town indicating they wish to enter an installment agreement to pay all the taxes. The Board reluctantly agreed to make such an offer, requiring a 20% down payment and monthly payments thereafter until the taxes, including the estimated 2022/23 tax, are paid in full. At press time, the town was still awaiting a reply to accept that offer.

The Select Board makes every effort to keep property with previous owners and on the tax rolls. The reluctance for an installment agreement is because of legal implications and past history.

## Town Awaits Cell Tower Sale Closure

(Lamoine) - Last fall, Lamoine voters granted approval at a special town meeting to approve sale of an easement on town owned property to the owners of a cell phone tower erected several years ago. American Tower had agreed to pay over \$220,000 for the permanent easement over a 10-year period. After the vote, the Select Board signed the many documents granting the permanent easement, and they were sent back to the attorney for the company. That was the last the town heard from the company, though current lease payments continue to come in.

The town has contacted its attorney to see where things might stand with the tower company. As of late March, no reply has come in.

## Municipal Staff Receives Premium Pay

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Select Board and the Hancock County Commissioners have approved paying front line municipal staff extra for work performed during the pandemic emergency. The Select Board dedicated \$30,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funding for staff pay, and the County Commissioners have matched that.

The Select Board distributed the town's share in late January to firefighters who responded to multiple calls during the pandemic period of March 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021, town office staff who worked dealing with the public, transfer station staff, code enforcement and facilities maintenance.

A second round of premium pay provided by the County Commissioners is expected to be distributed in April.

## Revaluation Work to Start This Year

(Lamoine) - The last full revaluation of properties town-wide took place nearly 30-years ago, and a factored update was done in 2005, so it'll be about 17-years since a professional appraisal firm has taken a close look at the property values in Lamoine. The annual town meetings last year and this past March approved the funding for a full revaluation to take place, and that will get under way starting in July.

Rob Duplissea of RJD Appraisal in Pittsfield says his crew will be in town in late June or early July to start what they call the measuring and listing phase of the revaluation. That means that they will be preparing the updates on buildings and will be available to the public to make sure things are listed correctly on the property cards.

After that, the revaluation crew will ride around town and take updated photographs of properties for the town records. Duplissea said about the only thing folks will notice is cars in their driveways for a brief time gathering property data.

## Audit Completed in Nick of Time

(Lamoine) - The town's auditor, James Wadman CPA, delivered the FY 2021 audit at the deadline required to have it in house prior to the annual town meeting. State law requires the audit be available for public inspection at least 10-days before the annual meeting. It arrived on March 4th and was immediately posted on the town's website. Delays at the school business office which has undergone some major staffing changes held up the audit's completion.

Auditor Ronald Bean reported no deficiencies in the town's record keeping and made no recommendations to the

Select Board for any changes. The audit showed very healthy fund balances at the end of June 2021. The municipal general fund balance (surplus) stood at \$779,690 and the education fund balance (school surplus) stood at \$1,381,671. The fund balance goal for several decades for Lamoine has been \$300,000.

While the fund balances are significant, it's not a license to spend. The town meeting must approve all budgets and use of undesignated funds. The fund balance is generally utilized to partially lower the property tax burden for future years.

## Masking Optional at School, Town Hall

(Lamoine) - Your town office and school staff has remarked how nice it is to once again see smiles. The easing of the COVID-19 virus and its variants prompted the School Committee to lift the masking mandate effective March 1st. The Select Board had staff post a sign recommending masking for the past several months, and that has now been removed.

The staff at the town hall is still exercising some precautions—the plexiglas is still up at the service counter windows so that we're not directly breathing on customers, and we still have the clean and used pen cups, though transmission from

pen use has not proven to be a contagion.

One staff member did contract COVID from a family member and was out for several days, and it did not spread to the rest of the town office staff. We pleased to report that everyone is well now and the effects were relatively mild, possibly thanks to vaccination. Staff is still quite vigilant about hand washing frequently.

The annual town meeting at the Lamoine Consolidated School did not require attendees to wear masks, and there are no reports of any disease transmission that the town is aware of.

## Landfill Water Testing to Include PFAS

(Lamoine) - Every year town staff collects water from residential wells downstream from the long closed landfill off Lamoine Beach Road. The samples are shipped to a testing company in Scarborough and analysis reports come back to the town to show whether there is any contamination from the trash that residents threw out for decades before the facility closed in 1994. Every other year an engineering company also samples water from wells that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) installed about 25-years ago around the landfill cap and tests for potential chemical contamination.

The DEP has requested the town assist them with sampling for PFAS contamination this year. The so-called "forever chemicals" have become a major

concern in some communities, and according to Matthew Young of the DEP, closed municipal landfills are a potential source.

This year a DEP staffer plans to collect water samples along with town staff from the residences that are tested annually, and to collect and analyze water from the landfill wells at the same time. The DEP testing will analyze whether the PFAS chemicals are present in any of the wells. If they are, the DEP says there is funding to install granular carbon filters on affected residences which eliminate the chemicals that have been linked to increased cancers.

The town generally conducts the water sampling between April 15th and May 30th.



## New Fire Truck will Take Some Time

(Lamoine) - Last fall voters approved borrowing \$300,000 to purchase a new fire truck to replace the 1994 engine that will come out of service after more than 25-years. The vote passed easily, and the town has issued the bond and received the proceeds to pay for the new truck. Now, it's a matter of waiting for it to be built.

Fire trucks come in two separate parts; the chassis and the body. It's the chassis that is going to delay the project for many months. Anyone who has tried to buy a new, commercial heavy truck chassis is aware that the lead time can be a year or more, mostly due to a computer chip shortage that cropped up during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hancock based Colwell Diesel was the low bidder for the

International Navistar truck body. The initial estimate was that it might be ready around January, 2023. Fire Chief Skip Smith says the timetable seems to keep being pushed back lately due to the overall truck production delays.

Once the chassis is delivered, it will be shipped to Island Falls, Maine and then to MetalFab LTD just across the Canadian border in New Brunswick to have the body constructed. That's expected to take several more months, and there have been some supply chain issues with steel and aluminum which are staples for fire trucks.

The 1994 engine is still working fine, and will be sold once the new fire truck is placed in service.

## Fire Calls Drop Sharply

(Lamoine) - The way 2022 started out, the fire department was on pace for a record setting year, with the first two calls of the year coming on the first two days. Things dropped off sharply thereafter.

For the first three months of the year, the Lamoine VFD responded to a dozen calls. The first call was for a propane odor that a Shore Road resident observed when she returned home. It was determined that the tank was empty and there was no presence of explosive gas in the home. When a propane tank is empty, a chemical that is added to the LP gas gives it a very distinct odor.

The next evening, the fire department responded to a fully involved pickup truck that was on fire on Pinkhams Flats, just around the corner from the Lamoine Town Hall. The driver was able to get out of the cab without injury. When firefighters arrived minutes later, the truck had flames coming from the engine compartment and the cab. It took approximately 900-gallons of water to put it out before a flat bed truck towed it away.

Lamoine was one of dozens of departments that responded to a fire at the Blue Nose Inn in Bar Harbor on February 10, 2022. The Lamoine crew was assigned to the Somesville Fire Station to cover any other calls that might come in during the major blaze that saw help summoned from around Hancock County, and as far away as Waldo and Penobscot Counties. Thankfully, no other calls came in during the fire, but the crew manned the station for about 8-hours. The fire department responded to two other mutual aid requests. One in Trenton was to supply a tanker with water to help put out a mussel dragger that caught fire in Mt. Desert Narrows but was towed to shore in Trenton. The other was for an alarm at an Ellsworth restaurant. That run was canceled while trucks were en route.

Water was an issue on a couple of calls. The LVFD used a portable pump to evacuate water from a home on Wood Run. And the department responded to a Lamoine Beach Road home when a water hose on a washing machine developed a hole and started spraying water when the washer pumped out its contents. An appliance company was contacted to bring a new drain hose.

Firefighters provided traffic control and cut down a tree after an early morning single vehicle accident on Douglas Highway in early March. The driver suffered minor injuries.

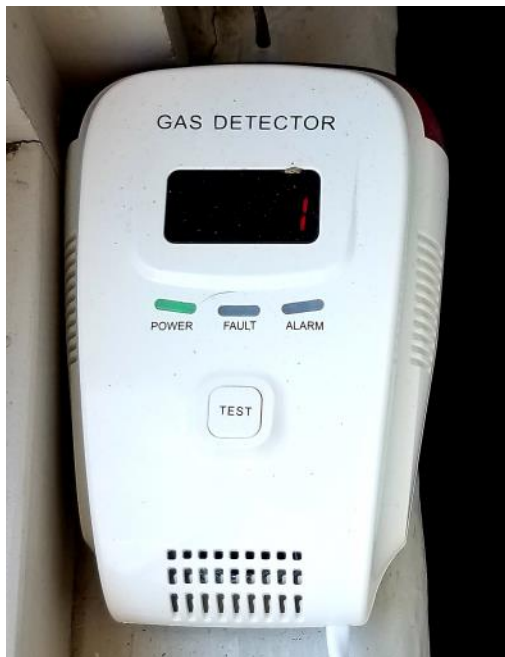
And volunteers removed things from the roadway that should not have been there, including a deer carcass on Douglas Highway and a tree on Mill Road.

The call volume was down roughly 46% from 2021 when the LVFD was paged out 22 times during the first quarter of the year. Mutual aid calls, especially to the City of Ellsworth, have decreased dramatically in the past 9-months or so. The town has seen most of the snow melt away and folks starting to burn brush and wood debris. A reminder that open burning permits are required.

## Gas Detectors Installed at Town Hall, FD

(Lamoine) - A new state law that went into effect after the last legislative session requires public buildings to install gas detectors in facilities that use propane. The town purchased two; one for the town hall that is heated by a propane furnace and one for the fire station that has a propane powered generator. The town hall also has a propane generator.

The requirement was prompted by an explosion in Farmington that killed a fire department captain and injured six others who responding to a call about a strong odor associated with an empty propane tank. In that instance, installation of a bollard severed a propane line and the gas escaped into the basement of an office building. When the fire department started searching for the source, the building blew up. Gas detectors are designed to alert occupants to the presence of propane.



## Assistant Fire Chief Retires Fire Chief Re-Elected, New Asst. Chief Named



Left to Right  
Retiring Assistant Chief Joe  
Reynolds, Chief George  
"Skip" Smith, and New Asst.  
Chief Frederick "Rick"  
Martens

(Lamoine) - When it comes to leadership, stability is probably a great thing, and the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department has had a lot of stability among the chief officers for decades. Since the late 1970s George "Skip" Smith has been the fire chief, and the annual election of officers saw Smith elected unanimously for a 44th straight year. For the past 43 years, Joe Reynolds has served as the assistant fire chief to Smith, who had replaced Reynolds as the chief when he was first elected. This year Reynolds has opted to step down as an Assistant Chief. He is replaced by Rick Martens, who was promoted from his position as Captain.

Martens joined the Lamoine VFD in August of 2015. He has earned certification as a Firefighter I & II after graduating from the Hancock County Fire Academy and has quickly risen through the ranks of the LVFD. He, his wife Kim and their two children (and two dogs) live on Tilden Way. An engineer by trade, he is employed by the Jackson Laboratory and often works from home.

Chief Smith is one of the longest continuously serving fire chiefs in the State of Maine. He notes that both he and

Reynolds joined the fire department back in 1963 when they were 14 years old and their fathers were helping to run the small fire department. He is retired from his career as a mason and a member of the Board of Directors for the Hancock County Firefighters Association as well as a key player in the Firefighter Academy.

Reynolds plans to stay active with the Lamoine VFD as a firefighter. He frequently mans the fire station during calls both in and out of town. He's also retired, but keeps busy as an electrician working with another firefighter, Arthur Ashmore.

Rounding out the leadership is Deputy Fire Chief (and Administrative Assistant to the Select Board) Stu Marckoon who also serves as the department's Treasurer, Captain Joseph Young Jr. who is also the Secretary, Captain Ed Farnsworth, Lieutenants Justin Kelley, Randy Kelley, Ben Willey, Nancy Lemoine, Doug Jones and Oliver Curry.

The department meets weekly on Wednesday evenings starting around 7:00 PM. The annual meeting in March featured a delicious seafood chowder prepared by David Herrick.



## Town Website to get Modern Look

(Lamoine) - In the world of modern technology, Lamoine’s town website has become a bit (OK, a LOT) on the archaic side. The town first started to have a web presence in 2003 when a company called Acadia.Net devised a website and posted the minutes of the Conservation Commission. Resident tech guru Brett Jones took things a lot further when he agreed to set up a server and allow the town to have its own site, and then set up a web server inside the town office where the site could be maintained. That’s worked fairly well over the next 18 or so years, but while the hardware has remained the same, so has the software used to post items on the site. And, it’s town staff that does all the posting, basically creating a significant amount of time spent making web pages for the many items that are posted. The town’s technology committee has recommended to the Select Board that it’s time to come into the modern era.

The Select Board agreed and has contracted with REACH Marketing, which is a subsidiary of *The Ellsworth American* newspaper to develop a new site. The company has submitted a “mock up” of how the site will look and in the coming months, the site will migrate to that new look. One of the best parts is that the town hall will no longer host the site on its own server. That means that when the power bumps and the battery backup fails, town staff will no longer have to drive into the office to reboot the old server, sometimes with limited success.

Website users will still access the town’s site at [www.lamoine-me.gov](http://www.lamoine-me.gov). Staff will still upload the web pages, but the format will mostly be in a .pdf style, which means creation of pages will coincide with original documents. It’s hoped that the new, cleaner front page will make navigating to the vast collection of town information a lot easier for users. There is no solid ETA for the new site to be up and running

## Internal Town Computer System Upgrade Planned

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Town Hall has just two full time workers, but five computers that are networked together. Sometimes, they stop talking to one another and to the six printers that are in the building. Usually updates to the Windows10 operating systems are blamed for the sudden communication loss, and that’s proven to be a problem. And sometimes, information exchange between computers is a bit slow. The town’s technology committee has recommended some changes, some of which have taken place right away.

In March, a new printer was installed at one of the two computers in the clerk/tax collector’s office, as an old (by today’s standards) color printer ran out of yellow toner, and it was less expensive to buy the black and white printer than it was to replace the toner. That worked around a problem where the computer would not print to the same printer as the other computer in that office. The town also purchased a new network switch (see picture at the right) which will be 10-times faster than the current switch to which all

the computers are hooked.

On the horizon will be a data storage drive. The data stored on hard drives, mostly on the computer used in the Administrative Assistant’s office, will be stored on that drive which will have an automatic on-site backup drive (called a RAID), as well as an offsite backup in case of a major catastrophe.

Information Technology Director Bill Butler and Technology Committee member Bob LaChance have been instrumental in helping to implement the changes. Mr. LaChance is an expert on networking computers and deals with systems for a living and has offered some major security tips to make sure the town’s systems remain safe.

The town periodically replaces computers as they become worn out or obsolete. Cable TV operations manager Justin Zinke, who chairs the Tech Committee, advises that the unit that controls the scheduling program for the cable channel should be replaced soon, as its hardware is old and the computer has slowed significantly.



A new network switch into which all the town office computers are hooked is expected to speed up the entire town hall network markedly.

## Recycling Costs to Increase Again

(Lamoine) - Doing the right thing for the environment comes with a price. In this case, recycling materials in the zero sort bins is a major component of the waste disposal budget, and the cost is going up again.

Under a transportation agreement with DM&J Waste of Winterport, the town is to provide roll-off containers for the company to transport and empty on a weekly basis. There are two such containers at the transfer station, and the end-site recycling company, ecomaine has supplied them at no charge. That’s coming to an end.

In April, the Select Board is being asked to approve an agreement with DM&J to pay the rental price for two dumpsters. That will add \$3,000/year to the recycling transportation costs. DM&J actually uses four of the containers to serve Lamoine, bringing an empty one to town to swap out with a full dumpster. The annual town meeting approved an overall 15% increase in the waste disposal budget, including a \$6,000 increase in recycling, which should cover the additional costs.

## Heating Fund Used Sparingly

(Lamoine) - For many years now, the town has maintained an emergency heating fund to assist households that find themselves short of money to buy heating fuel. The price of oil shot up to over \$5.00 per gallon during the first quarter of the year, but that did not coincide with any increased application to the fund for assistance.

So far, for the fiscal year ending next June, the town has granted just over \$770 in heating assistance, approving both applications that came into the town office. Donations and interest have added almost \$900 to the fund during the fiscal year. The fund itself has nearly \$18,000.

The Heating Assistance Program is open between November and March. Successful applicants can receive up to 100-gallons of heating fuel, a cord of wood, or the equivalent of electricity if that is the source of heat in the winter. Applicants are urged to apply for the Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LiHEAP) through Downeast Community Partners, but the applications often take several months to process. That agency runs a similar emergency hearing fund.

The Lamoine program requires applicants to be in imminent danger of running out of heating fuel. Applicants are eligible for just one grant per heating season.

Folks wishing to donate to the heating fund can send a gift in care of the Lamoine Town Office.



## Jay Sutter Awarded Boston Post Cane

(Lamoine) - Coley Cove Road resident Jay Sutter was honored as the town's oldest resident at the annual town meeting in March, and granted custody of the Boston Post Cane. The cane, commissioned by the long defunct newspaper, is traditionally given to the town's oldest resident. Sutter, who turned 95 the week after town meeting, received the cane just before his house mate, nephew Joe Marshall, moderated the meeting. He's been active with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society for decades and is a former insurance executive who worked for much of his career in New York City. The previous cane holder, Betty Adams, passed away at the age of 97 in January.



*Lamoine's oldest resident, Jay Sutter, holds the Boston Post Cane after receiving it at the annual town meeting in March.*

## College Scholarship Available

(Lamoine) - Applications for the Allen and Leurene Hodgkins Scholarship are now available to fill out. The scholarship provides significant assistance to college students from Lamoine, and has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past decade plus.

The fund has made over \$25,000 in support available to Lamoine students who are attending college. The application link is posted on the bulletin board of the town's website, and on the Maine Community Foundation site.

The Select Board will review all the applications received after the June 1st application deadline. Generally the available funds are allocated based on demonstrated need. Last year's scholarships were divided among just five applicants who received \$4,400 apiece toward tuition.

## Lamoine Community Arts News

(Lamoine) - LCA is planning a series of events for the spring and summer. Come join us!

**April 2, 10:00 AM to Noon** and **April 3, Noon-2:00 PM** (at the Grange) - Auditions for 2022 Readers' Theater. This year's plays are *This Random World* by Steven Dietz and *The Death of Me* by Norm Foster. These will be staged readings with the actors on stage using scripts, with performances the weekend of May 20-21.

**April 9, 7:00-8:30 SOMETHING NEW!!** I-JAM, an evening of improvisational theater with chances for audience participation, hosted by Blane Shaw.

**April 30, 7:00** (via Zoom) - Community play reading. If you'd like to be a reader (or to just listen in), come join us. No experience necessary!

**Late July** - Reprise of last fall's LCA production of *Getting to Know You* by Lamoine playwright Merle Bragdon. Join us for an evening of speed dating at a retirement community - watch for dates and times!

For more information on these and other LCA events, call 297-460-8030, e-mail [cm\\_mason@msn.com](mailto:cm_mason@msn.com), or visit us on the internet at [lamoinearts.org](http://lamoinearts.org) or on Facebook at Lamoine Community Arts. LCA follows Maine State guidelines regarding COVID for all public performances.

## Bob Christie Thanked for Select Board Service

(Lamoine) - After two terms as a Select Board member, Bob Christie has retired from the board. His last official day of duty was at the open town meeting on March 16th.

Board Chair Gary McFarland presented Christie with a Certificate of Outstanding Public Service at the annual town meeting. Christie was first elected to the Select Board in 2016. He has served on the town's School Committee, Board of Appeals and was a key member of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. He decided to retire after this term, but has not ruled out future public service to the town if needed.

During his tenure, Christie took particular interest in trash disposal and recycling, playing a key role in research into whether to keep using the PERC incinerator for disposal or move to the quickly shuttered Fiberright plant. The town opted to pull out of the MRC and continue with the PERC plant.



*Retired Select Board Member Bob Christie*

## Events Canceled

(Lamoine) - A pair of winter events scheduled in February got done in by icy and snowy weather. The Parks Commission and Conservation Commission had scheduled a skating day on Blunt's Pond, but heavy snowfall prevented clear ice. A star gazing event on Marlboro Beach was scuttled by slippery ice which made walking treacherous. A future star gazing event will be planned in better weather. Skating will have to wait until next winter.

## Street Light Converted, Repositioned

(Lamoine) - A street light designed to illuminate the entrance to the Lamoine Consolidated School and the tarmac at the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department station drew complaints when Versant Power converted it to a very bright LED fixture. The light seems to have a broader illumination envelope, and a neighbor said it was shining right into a bedroom window. The town asked that it be repositioned, which Versant did, but drivers started complaining about the glare on Mill Road. A second repositioning request was called in to try to get a happy medium. No complaints have been received since that request.



*'tis the Sweet season*

*Several in Lamoine have collected sap from maple trees to boil down to syrup. This is a shot of John Holt's operation on Lamoine Beach Rd.*

### The Lamoine Quarterly

#### Publisher

*The Lamoine Select Board*

#### Editor/Writer

*Stuart Marckoon, Adm. Asst.*

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# April 2022 Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon                                | Tue                           | Wed   | Thu                 | Fri | Sat |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----|-----|
|     |                                    |                               |   |                     | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4-7PM Planning Board               | 5-Town Office closed at lunch | 6-8AM Board of Assessors                    | 7-7PM Select Board  | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 11                                 | 12                            | 13-6PM School Cmte<br>7PM Conservation Cmsn | 14                  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18-Town Hall Closed (Patriots Day) | 19                            | 20  | 21-7PM Select Board | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25                                 | 26                            | 27  | 28                  | 29  | 30  |

# May 2022 Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon  | Tue                      | Wed                      | Thu                 | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2-7PM Planning Board                               | 3                        | 4-8AM Board of Assessors | 5-7PM Select Board  | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9-7PM—School Committee                             | 10-6:30 School Committee | 11-7PM Conservation Cmsn | 12                  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16   | 17                       | 18                       | 19-7PM Select Board | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23   | 24                       | 25                       | 26                  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30-10AM Memorial Day (Vets Memorial—office closed) | 31                       |                          |                     |     |     |

# June 2022 Lamoine Schedule

| Sun | Mon                                    | Tue   | Wed                      | Thu                                      | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|---|--------------------------|--|-----|-----|
|     |  |   | 1-8AM Board of Assessors | 2-7PM Select Board                       | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6-6PM Parks Cmsn<br>7PM Planning Board | 7   | 8-7PM Conservation Cmsn  | 9  | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13-6PM School Committee                | 14-8am to 8pm Primary Election<br>6:30 School Committee | 15                       | 16-7PM Select Board                      | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20                                     | 21  | 22                       | 23                                       | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27                                     | 28  | 29                       | 30-7PM Select Board (End of Fiscal Year) |     |     |

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April 2022

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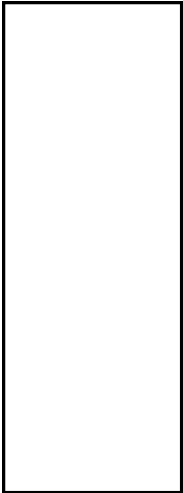
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Boston Post Cane

And Much, Much More



Town of Lamoine  
606 Douglas Highway  
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